

131
09890331-082801
vehicle axle in an articulated manner;

two vehicle body joints connecting two points of said four-point connecting rod to a vehicle body in an articulated manner, said two vehicle axle joints being located at spaced locations from one another in a transverse direction of the vehicle and said two vehicle body joints being located at spaced locations from one another in a transverse direction of the vehicle;

an first axle strut extending in a longitudinal direction of the vehicle arranged on a first side of the vehicle for guiding the axle, said first axle strut connecting said vehicle axle to said vehicle body in a vertically movable manner;

an second axle strut extending in a longitudinal direction of the vehicle arranged on a second side of the vehicle for guiding the axle, said second axle strut connecting said vehicle axle to said vehicle body in a vertically movable manner;

a spring assembly unit arranged between the vehicle axle and the vehicle body for spring suspension;

a first molecular joint connecting said first axle strut to said vehicle axle;

a second molecular joint connecting said second axle strut to said vehicle axle.

2. (AMENDED) An axle suspension in accordance with claim 1, further comprising another spring assembly unit arranged between the vehicle axle and the vehicle body for spring suspension, said first axle strut having a first mount for said spring assembly unit and said second axle strut having a second mount for said another spring assembly unit.

3. (AMENDED) An axle suspension in accordance with claim 2, wherein said first mount includes a joint and said second mount includes a joint.

4. (AMENDED) An axle suspension in accordance with claim 3, wherein the joints are ball-and-socket joints.

5. (AMENDED) An axle suspension in accordance with claim 1, further comprising a first shock absorber connected between said first axle strut and the vehicle body and a second shock absorber connected between said second axle strut and the vehicle body, said first axle strut having a first mount for said first shock absorber and said second axle strut having a second mount for said second shock absorber.

6. (AMENDED) An axle suspension in accordance with claim 1, further comprising:
a third molecular joint connecting said first axle strut to said vehicle body; and
a forth molecular joint connecting said second axle strut to said vehicle body.

7. (AMENDED) An axle suspension in accordance with claim 6, wherein said third molecular joint connecting said first axle strut to said vehicle body has a stiffer joint characteristic than said first molecular joint connecting said first axle strut to said vehicle axle and said forth molecular joint connecting said second axle strut to said vehicle body has a stiffer joint characteristic than said second molecular joint connecting said second axle strut to said

vehicle axle.

B 8. (AMENDED) An axle suspension in accordance with claim 1, wherein said spring assembly unit is arranged in front of or behind said vehicle axle.

9. (AMENDED) An axle suspension in accordance with claim 1, wherein said spring assembly unit is arranged in front of and behind said vehicle axle.

Please add the following new claims:

B2 10. (NEW) An axle suspension in accordance with claim 5, wherein said first mount includes a joint and said second mount includes a joint.

11. (NEW) An axle suspension for a rigid vehicle axle of air-suspension utility vehicles, the axle suspension comprising:

a four-point twistable connecting member arranged above the vehicle axle;

two vehicle axle joints connecting two points of said four-point connecting member to said vehicle axle in an articulated manner;

two vehicle body joints connecting two points of said four-point connecting member to a vehicle body in an articulated manner, said two vehicle axle joints being located at spaced locations from one another in a transverse direction of the vehicle and said two vehicle body joints being located at spaced locations from one another in a transverse direction of the vehicle;

09890381.082801

B2

an first axle strut extending in a longitudinal direction of the vehicle arranged on a first side of the vehicle for guiding the axle, said first axle strut connecting said vehicle axle to said vehicle body in a vertically movable manner;

an second axle strut extending in a longitudinal direction of the vehicle arranged on a second side of the vehicle for guiding the axle, said second axle strut connecting said vehicle axle to said vehicle body in a vertically movable manner;

a spring assembly unit arranged between the vehicle axle and the vehicle body for spring suspension;

another spring assembly unit arranged between the vehicle axle and the vehicle body for spring suspension

a first molecular joint connecting said first axle strut to said vehicle axle;

a second molecular joint connecting said second axle strut to said vehicle axle.

12. (NEW) An axle suspension in accordance with claim 11, wherein said first axle strut has a first mount for said spring assembly unit and said second axle strut has a second mount for said another spring assembly unit.

13. (NEW) An axle suspension in accordance with claim 12, wherein said first mount includes a joint and said second mount includes a joint.

14. (NEW) An axle suspension in accordance with claim 13, wherein the joints are ball-

and-socket joints.

B2 July 17
15. (NEW) An axle suspension in accordance with claim 11, further comprising a first shock absorber connected between said first axle strut and the vehicle body and a second shock absorber connected between said second axle strut and the vehicle body, said first axle strut having a first mount for said first shock absorber and said second axle strut having a second mount for said second shock absorber.

16. (NEW) An axle suspension in accordance with claim 15, wherein said first mount includes a ball-and-socket joint and said second mount includes a ball-and-socket joint.

17. (NEW) An axle suspension in accordance with claim 11, further comprising:
a third molecular joint connecting said first axle strut to said vehicle body; and
a forth molecular joint connecting said second axle strut to said vehicle body.

18. (NEW) An axle suspension in accordance with claim 17, wherein said third molecular joint connecting said first axle strut to said vehicle body has a stiffer joint characteristic than said first molecular joint connecting said first axle strut to said vehicle axle and said forth molecular joint connecting said second axle strut to said vehicle body has a stiffer joint characteristic than said second molecular joint connecting said second axle strut to said vehicle axle.